Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

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News Release ~ Communiqué

Tribute to Frère Marie-Victorin at Botanical Gardens

MONTREAL, July 14, 1995 - On behalf of Canadian Heritage Minister Michel Dupuy, Mr. Nick Discepola, MP for Vaudreuil, today unveiled a commemorative plaque from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada acknowledging the contribution of Frère Marie-Victorin. The ceremony took place at the Montreal Botanical Gardens.

As the founder of the Institut botanique de l'Université de Montréal, Frère Marie-Victorin dedicated his life to education and science. He was a talented writer who produced several literary texts as well as numerous articles on botany. His chief work La Flore laurentienne, published in 1935, testifies to his remarkable achievements as a man of science whose career was crowned with many prizes and medals of honour.

Inspired by the botanical gardens he had seen in Europe, Africa and Asia, he dreamed of creating a similar environment in the City of Montreal. It was when he was president of the Canadian Society of Natural History that the Association du Jardin botanique de Montréal was established in 1930. Five years later, he oversaw the development of the city's botanical garden. Frère Marie-Victorin died in July 1944 at the age of 59, but his memory is still alive because of his legacy.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada advises the Minister of Canadian Heritage concerning the commemoration of people, events or places of national significance in Canadian history.

Information :

Nicole Racette
Communications
Canadian Heritage
(514) 283-1544

Neil Wilson
Press Secretary
Minister's Office
(819) 997-7788